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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Attorney Docket No.: 109878.126)

Applicant(s): Ferrari, et al.
Serial No.: 09/998,682
Filed: October 31, 2001
For: HIERARCHICAL DATA-DRIVEN SEARCH AND NAVIGATION
SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Group Art Unit: 2171
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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FEB 25 2002

Technology Center 2100

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date set forth below.

2/11/02
Date

Anthony W. Sutton
Anthony W. Sutton

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner:

Applicants and their attorney are aware of the following publications and information listed on the attached PTO Form 1449, and in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97 hereby submit these publications for the Examiner's consideration.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(3), Applicants hereby make of record the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of all the published U.S. applications listed on Form PTO-1449 are enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the information above be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and that the publications be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. In this regard, it is requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 with the next Patent Office Communication.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material to patentability or that the listed documents are prior art. If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

09/998,682
Ferrari, et al.

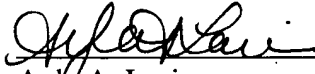
Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits and is therefore submitted as both timely and proper; therefore, no fees are believed to be due.

The Commissioner, however, is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0219. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 02/11/2002


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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified patent application are the following documents:

- 1.) Information Disclosure Statement;
- 2.) Form PTO-1449, including 5 documents; and
- 3.) Return Postcard.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in connection with this matter to Deposit account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 02/11/2002

Ayla A. Lari
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